General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 February 2016

Seventieth session
Agenda item 20 (*c*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2015

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/70/472/Add.3)*]

70/203. World Tsunami Awareness Day

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Sendai Declaration and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 69/283 of 3 June 2015, and recognizing that one of the priorities for action of the Sendai Framework is an understanding of disaster risk for prevention and mitigation and for the development and implementation of appropriate preparedness and effective response to disasters, which continue to undermine efforts to achieve sustainable development,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

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Recalling its resolution 69/219 of 19 December 2014 and reaffirming that, in 2009, the General Assembly designated 13 October as the date to commemorate the International Day for Disaster Reduction,[1]

Recognizing the support for the creation of a World Tsunami Day, expressed in the Leaders' Declaration of the seventh Japan-Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting, held on 22 and 23 May 2015, and in the New Tokyo Strategy 2015 for Mekong-Japan Cooperation, adopted at the Seventh Mekong-Japan Summit on 4 July 2015,

Reaffirming its resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, particularly paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed criteria for the proclamation of international years/days, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14, which state that an international year/day should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

Emphasizing that tsunamis have claimed many lives and caused tremendous damage and are a common challenge for many countries, as was witnessed, inter alia, in Chile in 1960, in the Philippines in 1976, in Papua New Guinea in 1998, in Turkey in 1999, in Peru in 2001, in the coastal States of the Indian Ocean in 2004, off the coast of Samoa and Tonga in 2009 and in eastern Japan in 2011,

Recognizing the significance of preparedness and the prompt dissemination of information through early warning systems, the use of traditional knowledge and the concept of "Building back better" in the recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phases in order to protect the lives of people and prevent the damage caused by tsunamis, as referred to in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,

1. *Decides* to designate 5 November as World Tsunami Awareness Day;[2]

2. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and individuals, to observe World Tsunami Awareness Day in an appropriate manner and in accordance with national priorities, in order to raise public awareness of the risk caused by tsunamis;

3. *Requests* the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, in collaboration with relevant organizations of the United Nations system, mindful of the provisions of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67, to facilitate the observance of World Tsunami Awareness Day, and stresses that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions.

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[1] See resolution 64/200.

[2] The designation of 5 November comes from the "Inamura-no-hi" anecdote about a villager who, on 5 November 1854, at the expense of his property, saved the lives of village inhabitants by setting fire to his sheaves of rice, thus quickly disseminating information about a tsunami, leading to the evacuation of the village, which he then made an effort to build back better.

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70/204. International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 54/219 of 22 December 1999, 56/195 of 21 December 2001, 60/195 of 22 December 2005, 64/200 of 21 December 2009, 65/157 of 20 December 2010, 66/199 of 22 December 2011, 67/209 of 21 December 2012, 68/211 of 20 December 2013, 69/219 of 19 December 2014 and 69/283 and 69/284 of 3 June 2015, and taking into consideration all other relevant resolutions,

Recalling also the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, [1] Agenda 21, [2] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, [3] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development [4] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), [5] and reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", [6] in particular the decisions related to disaster risk reduction,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] Resolution 66/288, annex.

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building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Recalling that this new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the importance of promoting resilience and disaster risk reduction for sustainable development,

Reaffirming its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Recalling that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, among other things, seeks to develop and implement holistic disaster risk management at all levels in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,[7]

Recalling also the Sendai Declaration[8] and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and expressing its profound gratitude to the Government and the people of Japan for hosting the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, from 14 to 18 March 2015, and to the Member States that provided all the necessary support,

Recognizing the need for a broader and a more people-centred preventive approach to disaster risk and that disaster risk reduction practices need to be multi-hazard and multisectoral, inclusive and accessible in order to be efficient and effective,

Expressing its deep concern at the number and scale of disasters and their devastating impact in recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative economic, social and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world and which hamper the achievement of their sustainable development, in particular in developing countries,

Underscoring that addressing climate change as one of the drivers of disaster risk, while respecting the mandate of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[9] represents an opportunity to reduce disaster risks in a meaningful and coherent manner throughout the interrelated intergovernmental processes,

Recognizing the adverse effects of climate change as contributors to environmental degradation and extreme weather events, which may, in certain instances, among other factors, contribute to disaster-induced human mobility,

Recognizing also the outcome of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Paris from 30 November to 13 December 2015, underscoring the commitment of all States to work for an ambitious and universal climate agreement, and reaffirming that the protocol, another legal instrument or agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all parties shall address in a balanced manner, inter alia,

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[7] Resolution 69/283, annex II.

[8] Ibid., annex I.

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, capacity-building and transparency of action and support,

Reaffirming the importance of strengthening international cooperation in the face of disasters, weather-related hazards, including the El Niño phenomenon, and the adverse effects of climate change to prevent major damage and ensure an adequate response and attention to the affected populations in a timely manner in order to ensure resilience to their impacts,

Recognizing that disaster-prone developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, warrant particular attention in view of their higher vulnerability and risk levels, which often greatly exceed their capacity to respond to and recover from disasters, and recognizing also that similar attention and appropriate assistance should also be extended to other disaster-prone countries with specific characteristics, such as archipelagic countries, as well as countries with extensive coastlines,

Noting with appreciation the initiative of the Secretary-General to hold the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey, on 23 and 24 May 2016, and noting the importance of giving due consideration to disaster risk reduction and strengthening resilience at the Summit,

Stressing the importance of inclusiveness within the United Nations development system, and that no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 69/219;[10]

2. *Urges* the effective implementation of the Sendai Declaration[8] and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030;[7]

3. *Reiterates its call for* the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries;

4. *Also reiterates its call for* the prevention of new and the reduction of existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political and institutional measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery and thus strengthen resilience;

5. *Stresses* the importance of the continued substantive consideration of the issue of disaster risk reduction, encourages countries, the relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions and stakeholders to take into consideration the important role of coordinated disaster risk reduction activities for, inter alia, the achievement of sustainable development, and in this regard also encourages them to take into consideration the United Nations Plan of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience in the coordination and elucidation of their respective activities, in the context of sustainable development and according to the Sendai Framework;

[10] A/70/282.

6. *Encourages* focused action within and across sectors by countries at the local, national, regional and global levels in the four priority areas of the Sendai Framework, namely, understanding disaster risk, strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk, investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience and enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "build back better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction;

7. *Calls upon* all relevant actors to work towards the achievement of the seven global targets agreed in the Sendai Framework;

8. *Encourages* Member States to give appropriate consideration to disaster risk reduction in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[11] where it is reflected across several Goals and targets;

9. *Reiterates its strong encouragement* of and the need for effective coordination and coherence, as applicable, between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development [12] and the Sendai Framework, as well as the negotiations of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, while respecting the respective mandates, in order to build synergies and resilience, and achieving the global goal of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty;

10. *Welcomes* the commencement of the work of the open-ended intergovernmental expert working group on indicators and terminology on disaster risk reduction, and looks forward to its outcomes, in coherence with the work of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators;

11. *Decides* to give due consideration to the review of the global progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework as part of the integrated and coordinated follow-up processes to United Nations conferences and summits, aligned with the Economic and Social Council, the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the quadrennial comprehensive policy review cycles, as appropriate, taking into account the contributions of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and regional platforms for disaster risk reduction and the updated monitoring tool based on the Hyogo Framework for Action Monitor;

12. *Recognizes* that, while each State has the primary responsibility for preventing and reducing disaster risk, it is a shared responsibility between Governments and relevant stakeholders, and also recognizes that non-State and other relevant stakeholders, including major groups, parliaments, civil society, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, non-governmental organizations, national platforms for disaster risk reduction, focal points for the Sendai Framework, local government representatives, scientific institutions and the private sector, as well as organizations and relevant agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions and intergovernmental organizations, play an important role as enablers in providing support to States, in accordance with national policies, laws and regulations, in the implementation of the Sendai Framework at the local, national, regional and global levels;

[11] Resolution 70/1.
[12] Resolution 69/313.

13. *Stresses* the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective and the perspectives of persons with disabilities in disaster risk management so as to strengthen the resilience of communities and reduce social vulnerabilities to disasters, and in this regard recognizes the need for the inclusive participation and contribution of women, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as the role of youth, volunteers, migrants, local communities, academia, scientific and research entities and networks, business, professional associations, private sector financing institutions and the media in all forums and processes related to disaster risk reduction, in accordance with the Sendai Framework;

14. *Encourages* Governments to promote women's full, equal and effective participation and leadership in the design, management, resourcing and implementation of gender-sensitive disaster risk reduction policies, plans and programmes;

15. *Underlines* the importance of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, the regional and subregional platforms for disaster risk reduction and the thematic platforms in order to forge partnerships, periodically assess progress on implementation and share practice and knowledge on disaster risk-informed policies, programmes and investments, including on development, climate issues and disaster-induced human mobility, as appropriate, as well as to promote the integration of disaster risk management in other relevant sectors; regional intergovernmental organizations should play an important role in the regional platforms for disaster risk reduction;

16. *Reaffirms* that international cooperation for disaster risk reduction includes a variety of sources and is a critical element in supporting the efforts of developing countries to reduce disaster risk;

17. *Recognizes* the scale of action needed at the national level, in particular, for the development of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies and the establishment and strengthening of national disaster loss databases, as well as the conduct of risk assessments, and reaffirms the need for the enhancement of the implementation capacity and capability of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries, as well as middle-income countries facing specific challenges, including the mobilization of support through international cooperation, for the provision of means of implementation, in accordance with their national priorities;

18. *Acknowledges* the importance of the work of the agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions in disaster risk reduction, the substantial increase in demands on the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the need for timely, stable and predictable resources necessary for supporting the implementation of the Sendai Framework;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in this regard, to review the requirements for the United Nations system to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework and to include the findings in his report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, as requested in paragraph 22 of the present resolution, within existing resources;

20. *Recognizes* the continued importance of voluntary funding, and urges donors to continue to provide sufficient funding to the United Nations Trust Fund for Disaster Reduction to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework, including through the contribution of unearmarked funds;

21. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates and resources, to ensure that no country is left behind in the implementation of the present resolution;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and decides to include, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Disaster risk reduction" in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, unless otherwise agreed in the discussions on the revitalization of the Second Committee.

81st plenary meeting
22 December 2015